

U.S. Patent Appln. 10/615,136
Amendment and Transmittal of Sworn
Translation filed December 29, 2004
Response to Office Action mailed September 29, 2004

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge detachably mountable on an ink-jet printing apparatus, comprising:
an ink accommodating portion operable to hold for holding ink;
an air passage operable to make through which said ink accommodating portion communicate with the atmosphere; and
a valve mechanism, provided in said air passage, including an air-releasing valve member operable to that can seal a communication hole provided in a partition wall that separates an ink-accommodating-portion side of the ink cartridge, that is a side close to said ink accommodating portion, from an atmosphere side of the ink cartridge, that is a side close to said atmosphere, the valve mechanism extending in a direction from said ink-accommodating-portion side toward said atmosphere side, wherin
said air-releasing valve member has a contact portion operable to open that opens said air passage by receiving in response to an applied external force, transmitted through a part of the printing apparatus when the ink cartridge is mounted on the printing apparatus, from said atmosphere side toward said ink-accommodating-portion side.

2. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein said air passage includes a winding passage and a breathable filter that repels liquid arranged in that order from said atmosphere, and

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said valve mechanism is provided located between said filter and said ink accommodating portion.

3. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a pressing member having an elastic force for pressing that presses said air-releasing valve member with an elastic force in a direction from said ink-accommodating-portion side toward said atmosphere side.

4. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a hammer operable to be removable about an axis and which comes into contact with said contact portion of said air-releasing valve member to open said air passage, said hammer being pivotable around an axis.

5. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 4, wherein said hammer pivots moves around said axis in a direction perpendicular to a mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto a recording the printing apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an air-releasing valve pressing member operable to move that moves substantially in parallel to a mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto a recording the printing apparatus, and said contact portion is pressed by said air-releasing valve pressing member to open said air passage.

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7. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein said air-releasing valve member has a projecting portion extending along said mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto ~~said recordingthe printing~~ apparatus to project from said communication hole toward said atmosphere side, said projecting portion being ~~formed~~configured so as to be pressed by said air-releasing valve pressing member.

8. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a pressing member ~~having an elastic force for pressing that presses~~ said air-releasing valve member with an elastic force in a direction of said mounting direction of said ink cartridge onto ~~said recordingthe printing~~ apparatus.

9. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

a film located between the contact portion and the hammer,
wherein said contact portion is pressed by said hammer via ~~the film located~~
therebetween.

10. (Currently amended) An ink cartridge as claimed in claim 6, wherein a face of a ~~reemsection~~ accommodating said air-releasing valve pressing member, that is pressed against ~~said recordingthe printing~~ apparatus, is sealed with a film.

11. (Currently amended) A vacuum-packaging product comprising:
an ink cartridge as claimed in any one of the preceding claims; and

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~~an~~ a bag-like outer packaging member ~~operable to cover~~covering said ink
cartridge, ~~said outer packaging member being like a bag,~~ wherein
a pressure inside said outer packaging member is reduced to seal said ink
cartridge.